

on assignment, reporting on a military raid which took place in the occupied city of Jenin. In May, I led a letter, signed by 58 Members of Congress, to the FBI and State Department calling for an independent and open investigation led by her home country, the United States and 24 Senators have echoed this request. It has been six months since we have sent this letter. Today, I continue to call for answers into the death of Shireen Abu Akleh.

As an American, Ms. Abu Akleh was entitled to the full protections afforded to U.S. citizens living abroad. As Members of Congress, we need to uphold the values that our Nation was founded on, including human rights, equality for all, and freedom of speech. As Members of Congress, we have a duty to protect Americans reporting abroad. An Israeli investigation has concluded, finding that it was indeed an Israel Solider that shot Ms. Abu Akleh in her line of duty. It is the responsibility of the U.S. to learn all the unanswered questions leading up to, during and after the fatal shot that killed Ms. Abu Akleh. Additionally, this bill requires an identification of any United States defense materials or services that were implicated in the death of Ms. Abu Akleh. No U.S. weapons and military services by the U.S. should be used to kill Americans on foreign soil. American taxpayers should not be paying for any violation of human rights abroad.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in calling for justice and accountability for Shireen Abu Akleh.

HONORING THE VALLEJO SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Vallejo Symphony in recognition of their 90th anniversary.

The Vallejo Symphony was founded in 1931, in the midst of the Great Depression. Led by conductor Julius Weyand, the original group consisted of 60 musicians. Hoping to uplift their struggling community, local leaders were able to raise the funds necessary to bring world class music to their town.

Over the years, the Vallejo Symphony has seen tremendous growth, both in funding and notoriety. The Vallejo Symphony Association was founded in 1951, and acclaimed conductor Dr. George Wargo began his two-decade tenure as the orchestra's leader. During this time, the Vallejo Symphony performed both Wargo's Symphony in G and Concerto for Strings.

Upon Wargo's departure, David Ramadanoff, a former associate conductor of the San Francisco Symphony, became the symphony's new leader, guiding it through three decades of excellence. Today, the Vallejo Symphony is led by Marc Taddei, Music Director of Orchestra Wellington.

In addition to traditional concerts, the Vallejo Symphony routinely welcomes distinguished guest artists from around the globe in an effort to bring diverse music to Solano County residents. In 1993, they performed with the Akashi Choral Society in Japan for a celebration of the relationship between Akashi and Vallejo.

Additionally, the Vallejo Symphony has sent musicians to perform in public schools, engaging and inspiring countless young students via classical music.

Madam Speaker, the Vallejo Symphony has filled our community with rich, varied, and world-class music for nearly a century. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that it is honored here today.

CONGRATULATING TRIGG LINDAHL ON HIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Trigg Lindahl on his victory in the Class 2 Boys Golf Championship.

Trigg made history, becoming the first individual Class 2 Golf State Champion to come out of Hermann High. Trigg should be commended for all his hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to his school and community.

Please join me in recognizing Trigg Lindahl for a job well done.

HONORING LINDA CITCHENS DOWNING

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable hero, Mrs. Linda Citchens Downing.

Linda Citchens Downing is the daughter of the late Mary Alice Catchings-Broom and Eulis Broom, Sr. Born in Clarksdale, Mississippi, she grew up the middle child of 11 siblings. Her mother, being the sole provider for her large family, instilled in her the qualities of discipline, hard work, and dedication to duty. Determined to set her children up for a better life, Mary worked at the Coco-Cola Bottling Company and cleaned homes on Saturday to provide for them. What the family lacked in material possessions, they made up for in love and faith. Although Mary only had an 8th grade education, she wanted to insure her children had more access to education than she had.

After graduating high school, Linda yearned for just that goal. At the time, her goal was to become a lawyer who provided legal representation for the underserved; however, that course was not to be. With little money and lacking the type of support necessary for law school, she would find an alternate route to achieving her goal of helping people, and that was via education. Her older sisters had graduated from college and become teachers, and Linda decided to follow suit.

She attended Coahoma Junior College, now Coahoma Community College, where she served as Miss Coahoma Junior College in 1978 to 1979. In March of 1979, she got married, and in May of that same year, she graduated with high honor from CJC. A year later, she had her first child. Being a wife, mother,

and attending college was difficult for a 20-year-old, so Linda decided to quit Delta State University when she became pregnant with her second daughter. She pressed on, though, enrolling at Mississippi Valley State University soon afterwards. Not having transportation, she commuted with one of the professors, often taking her baby to class with her.

When one of her professors told her she wouldn't be able to finish her degree with two babies, Linda became even more resolved to get the job done and achieve her overarching goals of service and support to the community. Her second daughter was born in December of 1981; by December of 1982, she had completed her Bachelor's Degree, Cum Laude. She began her teaching career at Oakhurst Elementary School, and in the following years, she taught the gamut of elementary education, all while inspiring and motivating her students to think bigger and to desire more. She enrolled in graduate school at Delta State, receiving a Master's Degree in Elementary Education. Shortly thereafter, she moved up to lead teacher. Another stint at Delta State produced a Master's degree in counseling, after which she was hired as a middle school counselor, performing in that capacity for 7 years. Conrad Hilton said, "Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving." And that's what Linda did. She returned to school to study administration, and to that end, she was hired as an elementary school principal. When that proved successful, she was promoted to middle school principal.

She served as principal of Oakhurst Middle School for 7 years. During her tenure, she changed the culture of the school in academics and athletics and brought it to successful status. Linda implemented numerous incentives such as Teacher of the Year (the teacher with the most improved scores in standardized tests would receive \$500 paid by the principal); Most Improved of Teacher (the most improved teacher would receive \$250 paid by the principal); as well as financial incentives (donated by stakeholders) for students scoring proficient and advanced on state tests, and in the process, increased parental and community support by 75 percent. As a result of her achievement as a principal, in 2010, Linda was hired as the Secondary Curriculum Director of the Clarksdale Public School District. In 2016, Linda earned a Specialist degree in administration and supervision from Arkansas State University. Finally, after 32 years of being guided by the principles her mother imparted in her, she retired.

Linda only remained out of education for a year, returning because of her love and respect for her vocation and the positive effects of her actions on the world around her. Currently, she serves as the Chief Academic Office of the Quitman County School District, where she works full time on a part-time salary. Despite this, she has a hand in almost all aspects of education in the district: from site visits to new teacher training, to the organization of large-scale events on the district's behalf. She does what she does because of love; she loves the students, the teachers, the parents, and she is committed to education.

At the age of 8, Linda stated cooking for her younger brothers and sisters. This inspired a lifelong love of cooking and baking. As part owner of 7Sisters Catering, she regularly donates her food and services to church, school,